

## BDG Academic Award 2023

The BDG Academic Award is presented every four years by the German Allotment Garden federation (BDG), the umbrella organisation of allotment gardening in Germany. All academics and students conducting academic activities in the context of allotment gardening are invited to submit their entries. The award recognises academic work that puts forward new and future-oriented ideas that promote the ecological, urban developmental and social functions of allotment gardens.

### Submissions invited by:

Bundesverband Deutscher Gartenfreunde e. V.  
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Internet: [www.kleingarten-bund.de](http://www.kleingarten-bund.de)

### Objectives

The aim of the Academic Award is to direct the attention of academics working in the fields of urban and regional development and landscape planning to allotment gardening. It is supposed to raise awareness among town and city planners of the potential of allotment gardens when it comes to furthering a green infrastructure. The BDG wishes to acknowledge ideas and innovative approaches that are exemplary in the way they seek to integrate allotment gardening in projects directed towards preserving the environment, strengthening our social structures, and enhancing the quality of life in towns and cities.

It is particularly important to us that due recognition is given to academic work and projects that have an exemplary effect on green and social aspects of urban development and that contribute to the creation of a modern green infrastructure. The competition aims to stimulate interest in topics relating to allotment gardens and urban green areas in the relevant academic fields and in their practical implementation.

### Topics

It is not just the German Allotment Garden federation and its members who are currently facing wide-ranging challenges in securing the continued existence and development of allotment gardens. Other national member associations of the Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux – with more than three million affiliated leisure gardeners the largest leisure garden organisation in Europe – also wish to secure, qualify and develop allotment gardening as an important contributor to the green infrastructure in Europe. This process is not just relevant to people in political and administrative institutions, but also to urban developers and town planners.

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To be considered for the award, papers must in some way contribute to the requirements-based development of existing allotment gardens. Another option will be to determine, by empirical means, the value of allotment gardens to society and/or the environment. Papers should originate from the context of universities and other institutes of higher education, and the themes covered should relate to the role of allotment gardens in Europe in the widest sense, in the context of urban and regional development and landscape planning. They should highlight, within a broad context, the significance of allotment gardens in the sustainable development of a green urban and rural landscape. They should point out the extent to which allotments are able to play a role in shaping the future development of cities and towns, and how allotment gardeners can contribute as local stakeholders to an urban landscape development that is both ecologically and socially sustainable.

Possible themes could be ones that consider innovative approaches to the creation, expansion and restructuring of allotments. Examples are:

- Descriptions of modification measures in response to changes in demand,
- Concepts and projects with innovative approaches to securing existing allotments, possibly with regard to the ecological enhancement of – and recognition as – compensatory areas,
- Innovative usages of allotments subject to the provisions of the Federal Allotment Garden Law.

The competition is formally aimed at academic work that can also be sure of arousing interest and acceptance within their departments. The range extends from outstanding seminar papers and bachelor's theses to master's theses and on to dissertations. Academic articles published in English may also be submitted. The production and publication period is limited to 2019 to 2023.

### **Eligibility to submit nominations**

Institutions, academic teams, student teams, authors' collectives or their publishers, and individuals (i.e. the authors themselves) are eligible to submit nominations.

### **Assessment**

Following formal examination by the BDG office, submissions will be assessed by an interdisciplinary jury to be appointed by the organisers.

### **General conditions**

The BDG Academic Award 2023 is offered as an open competition. Submissions may state the names of the authors.

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### **Declaration of consent**

By taking part in the competition, submitters consent to the publication and documentation of their work and agree with the entire content of the procedure. Only those submissions will be accepted for which the submitters themselves hold the copyright or for which a declaration of consent has been obtained from the copyright holder.

The submitters assure the organisers that any image materials submitted may be used for prize documentary and reporting purposes in both online and printed media.

### **Prizes**

A total prize money of 5,000 euros is available to the jury for awarding papers. Allocation of the prize money is decided by the jury.

### **Documentary requirements**

Please submit your documentation together with the application form either in an envelope or by e-mail to:

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Platanenallee 37  
14050 Berlin  
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Closing date for submissions: 31 March 2023.